

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 31

**This exhibit is in
regards to HB 808 ,
It contains several
different types of
materials to
numerous to scan.
Therefore only 10
pages have been
scanned to aid in
your research.**

**You may view the
original it is on file at
the Montana
Historical Society
and may be observed
there.**

Afternoon

Good Morning Mr. Chairman, and Committee Members:

My name is Davey Haglund. I am a child care provider and small business owner from Belgrade. Today I am here as a representative of Montana Advocates for Children and The Montana Child Care Association. It is my hopes to impress upon you the importance of restoring the \$4.17 million found in PL 20016, that was previously approved by the Joint Appropriations Sub committee for Health and Human Services. Failure to do so will adversely affect children, families, small businesses and communities all across Montana.

50% of the children and families I serve in my childcare receive subsidized payments from the Health and Human Services Budget. If these families lose benefits due to budget cuts, I will lose half of my clientele, and half of my income. The children will lose access to quality child care, and access to a program that helps them gain the skills needed to enter public school ready to learn. Our community will lose productive members of the workforce and the revenues generated by spending from those families.

My voice is multiplied 351 times through these signed petitions and letters from childcare providers and parents from every corner of Montana.

Today you have recieved 1037 petitions to restore these funds to the Health and Human Services Budget
Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Connie Nelson
Constance Care Child Care Center
213 Dodge Street
Plentywood, Mt 59254

406-765-1434

March 2, 2007

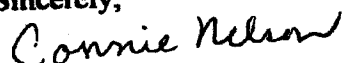
Dear Chairman:

I have been providing quality child care to families in this far northeast corner of Montana for 18 years. Approximately 50% of these families are low income families who depend on assistance from Best Beginnings Scholarships for their child care. These families would have to quit work and stay home with their children if they could not receive help for their child care. And they would need more monetary assistance from state agencies if they were not working. I also provide care for foster families.

My income also depends on these payments, and if they were discontinued, I would have to close my important business. Constance Care serves the community; the community does not serve Constance Care.

I urge you to restore the \$4.17 million back into the Governor's budget for child care. Feel free to contact me if you need further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Connie Nelson

Owner, operator, director & provider

TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS TERI O'CONNELL I HAVE BEEN A CHILD CARE PROVIDER FOR 21 YEARS. I WOULD BE TESTIFYING BEFORE YOU TODAY, BUT I AM LITERALLY CARING FOR OUR FUTURE (OUR CHILDREN) AND CAN'T MAKE THE LONG DRIVE DOWN.

AS A TAXPAYER, I NEED TO YOU TO TRULY REPRESENT ME AND OTHERS LIKE ME. I AM APPALLED THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN \$4 MILLION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. I DON'T THINK THAT MAKES MUCH ECONOMIC SENSE. YOU ARE NOT ONLY HURTING MY BUSINESS BUT OTHER BUSINESSES AS WELL WHO DEPEND ON OUR SERVICES SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE GOOD EMPLOYEES THAT ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK KNOWING THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE SAFE. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR MUCH, JUST A RAISE EACH YEAR SO THAT WE CAN SUPPORT OURSELVES AND CLIENTS THAT CAN AFFORD WITH GOVERNMENT HELP TO PAY FOR QUALITY CARE.

I HAVE SEEN LEGISLATURES IN THE PAST SLASH SPENDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD. IT HAS NOT BEEN A WISE CHOICE. OUR PRISON SYSTEM IS OVER FILLING AND PART OF THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO PROBLEMS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD. IF WE REACH THIS CHILDREN EARLY WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE HAVING TO SPEND MORE TAX DOLLARS ON THEM DOWN THE ROAD. WE WANT PRODUCTIVE FUTURES FOR OUR CHILDREN, NOT TIME WASTED IN JAIL OR OTHER USES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT ARE NOT BENEFICIAL FOR ALL.

AS YOU CONSIDER THIS BUDGET PLEASE RESTORE THE \$4 MILLION. I AM A TAXPAYER AND I WANT TO SEE MY MONEY GO TO WISE CHOICES. SLASHING SPENDING FOR THE SAKE OF SLASHING SPENDING, OFTEN LEADS TO GAINS IN THE SHORT RUN, BUT IT CATCHES UP WITH US IN THE LONG RUN. PUT THE \$4 MILLION BACK IN THE BUDGET AND CARE FOR OUR FUTURE LIKE I DO EVERY DAY.

THANK YOU,

TERI O'CONNELL
HAVRE, MT

**SMALL WORLD DAYCARE& PRESCHOOL
623 NORTH CENTRAL AVE.
PO BOX 1387
SIDNEY, MT 59270
(406) 488-7337**

Dear House Appropriations Committee:

My Name is Connie Sturgis I am the owner and director of Small World Daycare and Preschool in Sidney, MT for 12 years. I have been an educator in early childhood for about 24 years. My center is licensed for 50 children I have 128 children on my books. This is about 65 families, of these families 60% of my children are on the best beginning scholarship.

I am also the president, of The Montana Childcare Association. In writing this letter I am representing childcare providers all across the state.

We urge you to restore to the budget the \$4.17 million found in PL 20016, as in the governor's budget and previously approved by the Joint Appropriations Sub committee for Health and Human Services. Failure to include this presents adjustment will impact my community and communities across the state to provide childcare for working families and their young children.

I have seen personally what happens when you cut the budget in childcare. I have seen mothers quit their jobs and go on other government programs, or they can't pay their daycare bill so the providers are the stuck with their bills. When this happens I have a hard time paying my twelve employees. I have also seen daycare provider's go out of business. This is just a few items it is important to every community to have quality childcare.

Providers have worked hard in putting quality in childcare so that our children have a safe and clean learning environment. Please we are doing our part for the future of our children. So Please we are asking you to restore \$4.17 million back to the budget for the future of our working parents and our children.

Thank You,

**Connie Sturgis
MTCCA President**

March 1, 2007

Legislators,

I am a small business owner in Sidney, MT. I care for 14 children in my group childcare home. Some of these children have been helped by the Best Beginnings Grant because the parents just don't make enough money to pay for childcare, housing bills and food.

I would like to see the funding for daycare remain uncut at \$4.17 million dollars. Cutting this money would make it impossible for some of my parents to make ends meet by having to pay for their daycare. And I, as a provider, would end up eating the cost of daycare for these children or have to exclude them from my program.

Where would these children go if their parents continued to work? Other state funds would have to pay for the parents that decide to quit working and stay home in order to care for their children.

DPHHS needs these monies to continue to help these families.

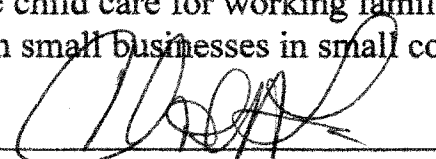
I support HB 808.

Pat Knoepke

Pat Knoepke

I urge Legislators to restore to the budget the \$4.17 million found in PL 20016, as included in the Governor's budget and previously approved by the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for Health and Human Services. Failure to include this "present law adjustment" will create significant hardships for a system that is already besieged and will significantly impact every community's ability to provide child care for working families and their young children. These cuts also threaten small businesses in small communities across Montana.

Signed


Name (Christine M. Leer)

Belgrade
Hometown

388-9600
Phone Number

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Signed

Megan Ulrichs
Name

Bozeman, Mt.
Hometown

599-2764
Phone Number

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Signed

Davey Haglund
Name

Belgrade
Hometown

388-9213
Phone Number

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Signed Brenda Rose Lorenzen 585-5630
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Brenna Rendall Boreman 582-8842
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Antia Jenkins Three Forks, MT 285-4308
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Price Kocao Bozeman 579-5559
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed LaRae Salis Manhattan 282-7435
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed A. Klean Bozema 763-4948
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Dandra J. Gehman Bozeman 582-8842
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Liz Rembert Livingston 222-7097
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Megan McIntyre Bozeman, MT 404-310-6530
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Malcolm Livingston 222-3774
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Barbara Lopus Bozeman 585-7585
Name Hometown Phone Number

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Signed Theresa Walker Bozeman 587-7820
Name Hometown Phone Number